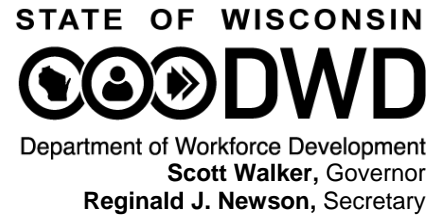


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 19, 2012

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Secretary Newson Announces Assistance to Community Health Partnership Employees Facing Layoffs

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced \$25,000 in assistance is being provided to help Community Health Partnership employees facing layoffs.

DWD provided its regional partner, the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, the funding to initiate services to 353 employees of Community Health Partnership that are facing layoff on December 31. In the weeks ahead, the funding will be used to provide such services as career assessment and job search workshops.

The employees will receive the services on site at the Community Health Partnership facility in Eau Claire prior to the scheduled layoffs, under an agreement with Wisconsin Resource, Inc., the fiscal agent of the West Central WDB.

As part of the Wisconsin dislocated worker program, DWD and the West Central WDB will continue to help the employees who request assistance in finding new employment.

In addition to the \$25,000 for pre-layoff services, Workforce Resource may be eligible to receive a Special Response Grant to further assist the workers in search of new employment.

Wisconsin spends nearly \$40 million annually serving approximately 20,000 dislocated workers in various programs. Wisconsin consistently ranks highly among states in receipt of discretionary federal funding for dislocated workers.

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